Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-20 NSC-10 PRS-01

H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-25 (ISO)R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE/TJBURKE:CRJ APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE L/C:FKWIATEK

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R 261954Z FEB 74 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 038127

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, MOPS, ZA SUBJECT: CROTHERS' CLAIM

REF: LUSAKA 288

1. AF/E DIRECTOR CALLED CROTHERS FEBRUARY 25 TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE REFTEL, INCLUDING EMBASSY SUGGESTION THAT GRZ ACTION ON CLAIM MIGHT BE ACCELERATED IF EMBASSY WERE AUTHORIZED TO TABLE REALISTIC FIGURE AT FIRST MEETING IN EVENT SITUATION DEVELOPS AS EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WILL. WHILE CROTHERS ACKNOWLEDGED LOGIC OF THIS IDEA, HE CON-TINUES TO STAND FIRM ON HIS EARLIER PROPOSAL WHEREBY, IF GRZ FAILS TO MAKE OFFER AND FOLLOWS PATTERN ESTABLISHED IN CANADIAN EX GRATIA DISCUSSIONS, HE WILL THEN, AFTER DISCUSSING MATTER AGAIN WITH AF/E AND L/C, BE PREPARED TO AGREE ON FIGURE WHICH EMBASSY MAY UTILIZE ON HIS BEHALF. WHILE HE STILL APPEARS TO BE THINKING IN TERMS OF SETTLE-MENT AT HIGHER AMOUNT THAN GRZ LIKELY TO MAKE, TONE OF CONVERSATION INDICATES HE MAY BE THINKING IN SOMEWHAT MORE REALISTIC TERMS THAN HERETOFORE. FYI: HE SAID IN TELECON, THAT IF HE WERE ASSURED OF PAYMENT DOLS 40,000, THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. HE THEN REITERATED THAT HE CONSIDERED DOLS 20,000 TOO LOW, END FYI CONFIDENTIAL

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- 2. CROTHERS WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF ALLUSION TO HIS WIFE IN EMBASSY'S NOTE TO MOFA.
- 3. IN VIEW OF THIS CONVERSATION WITH CROTHERS IN WHICH HE WAS FULLY APPRISED OF AND ACKNOWLEDGED FACT THAT HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO PROPOSE SPECIFIC FIGURE PRIOR INITIAL EMBASSY CONTACT WITH GRZ IS LIKELY TO DELAY PROCESS OF SETTLEMENT, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY PROCEED BY ASKING GRZ TO TABLE SETTLEMENT OFFER AT MARCH 1 MEETING. IF THIS NOT FORTHCOMING, DEPARTMENT WILL CONVEY TO CROTHERS SENSE OF MEETING WITH ANY EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSULT WITH HIM RE AGREEMENT ON FIGURE WHICH CAN BE PROPOSED TO MOFA. CASEY

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To: LUSAKA

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